Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1.   (currently amended) A method of specifying properties for instances that belong to

2   classes, comprising the ~~step~~steps of:

3   associating with an instance of a class a per-instance method that is not a method in

4   said class~~.~~;

5   storing within a database, a policy object that defines the per-instance method and an

6   implementation of said per-instance method;

7   wherein said policy object is an instance of a policy object class; and

8   wherein a mapping maps said policy object to one or more rows of a database table.

1   2.   (currently amended) The method for Claim 1 wherein ~~the step of associating a~~said

2   per-instance method ~~includes:~~is not associated with a second instance of said class.

3   ~~associating a policy with a method implementation for a particular method; and~~

4   ~~associating said policy with said instance.~~

1   3.   (currently amended) The method for Claim 1 wherein said step of

2   associating is performed by establishing a policy bundle that includes

3   one or more ~~policies~~policy objects and associating said instance with

4   said policy bundle.

1   4.   (cancelled)

1   5.   (currently amended) The method for Claim 1 further comprising the step

2   of:

3   maintaining an object relational mapping system that indicates a correlation between

4   said instance and data stored in ~~a relational~~said database.

1   6.   (currently amended) The method for Claim 1 wherein said step of associating

2   includes establishing a pointer that belongs to said instance to point to a policy bundle

3   that is associated with one or more ~~policies~~policy objects.

1   7.   (currently amended) The method for Claim 6 wherein associating said policy bundle

2   with said one or more ~~policies~~policy objects includes establishing a pointer that

3   belongs to said policy bundle to point to said one or more ~~policies~~policy objects.

1   8.   (currently amended) The method for Claim 6 wherein associating said policy bundle

2   with said one or more ~~policies~~policy objects includes establishing a reference that

3   belongs to said policy bundle to reference said one or more ~~policies~~policy objects.

1   9.   (currently amended) The method for Claim 1 wherein said step of associating

2   includes establishing a reference that belongs to said instance that references a policy

3   bundle that is associated with one or more ~~policies~~policy objects.

1 10. (currently amended) The method for Claim 9 wherein associating said policy bundle

2   with said one or more ~~policies~~policy objects includes establishing a pointer that

3   belongs to said policy bundle to point to said one or more ~~policies~~policy objects.

1 11. (currently amended) The method for Claim 9 wherein associating said policy bundle

2   with said one or more ~~policies~~policy objects includes establishing a reference that

3   belongs to said policy bundle to reference said one or more ~~policies~~policy objects.

1 12. (original) The method for Claim 1 wherein said step of associating includes using a

2   hash table for a policy bundle and said policy bundle is associated with said instance.

1 13. (currently amended) The method for Claim 12 wherein said step of associating

2   includes placing an entry in said hash table and further comprising the computer-

3   implemented steps of:

4   associating a key and a value with said entry;

5   using a method name as said key; and

6   using an association between said policy bundle and said policy object as said value.

1 14. (currently amended) The method for Claim 13 wherein said value is a pointer to said

2   policy object.

1 15. (currently amended) The method for Claim 13 wherein said value is a reference to

2   said policy object.

1   16.   (original) The method for Claim 1 wherein said class is a file type and said instance is

2   a file of said file type in a file system wherein the step of associating includes

3   associating said file of said file type with said per-instance method that is not a

4   method of said file type.

1   17 – 37.   (cancelled)

1   38.   (currently amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of

2   instructions for specifying properties for instances that belong to classes, wherein

3   execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors

4   causes the one or more processors to perform the ~~step~~steps of:

5   associating with an instance of a class a per-instance method that is not a method in

6   said class<u>;</u>

7   <u>storing within a database, a policy object that defines the per-instance method and an</u>

8   <u>implementation of said per-instance method;</u>

9   <u>wherein said policy object is an instance of a policy object class; and</u>

10   <u>wherein a mapping maps said policy object to one or more rows of a database table.</u>

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1   39.   (cancelled)

1 40. (original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 38 wherein said class is

2 a file type and said instance is a file of said file type in a file system wherein the step

3 of associating includes associating said file of said file type with said per-instance

4 method that is not a method of said file type.

1 41. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim

2 38 wherein said step of associating is performed by establishing a policy

3 bundle that includes one or more ~~policies~~policy objects and associating

4 said instance with said policy bundle.

1 42. (cancelled)

1 43. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim

2 38 further comprising the step of:

3 maintaining an object relational mapping system that indicates a correlation between

4 said instance and data stored in a ~~relational~~said database.

1 44. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 38 wherein

2 said step of associating includes establishing a pointer that belongs to said instance to

3 point to a policy bundle that is associated with one or more ~~policies~~policy objects.

1 45. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 44 wherein

2 associating said policy bundle with said one or more ~~policies~~policy objects includes

3   establishing a pointer that belongs to said policy bundle to point to said one or more

4   ~~policies~~policy objects.

1   46.   (currently amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 44 wherein

2   associating said policy bundle with said one or more ~~policies~~policy objects includes

3   establishing a reference that belongs to said policy bundle to reference said one or

4   more ~~policies~~policy objects.

1   47.   (currently amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 38 wherein

2   said step of associating includes establishing a reference that belongs to said instance

3   that references a policy bundle that is associated with one or more ~~policies~~policy

4   objects.

1   48.   (currently amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 47 wherein

2   associating said policy bundle with said one or more ~~policies~~policy objects includes

3   establishing a pointer that belongs to said policy bundle to point to said one or more

4   ~~policies~~policy objects.

1   49.   (currently amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 47 wherein

2   associating said policy bundle with said one or more ~~policies~~policy objects includes

3   establishing a reference that belongs to said policy bundle to reference said one or

4   more ~~policies~~policy objects.

1 50. (original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 38 wherein said step of

2 associating includes using a hash table for a policy bundle and said policy bundle is

3 associated with said instance.

1 51. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 50 wherein

2 said step of associating includes placing an entry in said hash table and further

3 comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

4 associating a key and a value with said entry;

5 using a method name as said key; and

6 using an association between said policy bundle and said policy object as said value.

1 52. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 51 wherein

2 said value is a pointer to said policy object.

1 53. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 51 wherein

2 said value is a reference to said policy object.

1 54-74 (cancelled)